

A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *APANTELES* FOERSTER (HYMENOPTERA: BRACONIDAE) FROM INDIA¹

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(With three text-figures)

INTRODUCTION

The taxonomy of the genus *Apanteles* Foerster is difficult and quite confusing.

The genus (of Indo-Australian region) was revised by Wilkinson (1928). Nixon (1965) revised the entire subfamily Microgasterinae and also attempted taxonomy of the genus *Apanteles*. Recently Mason (1981) contributed on the reclassification of *Apanteles* Foerster but the same was not accepted by Berg *et al.* (1988).

The earlier works on *Apanteles* in India are by Lal (1942), Bhatnagar (1948), Rao (1961), Rao and Chalikwar (1970a, b) and Sumodan and Narendran (1990).

In the present work, key to the Oriental species of *Apanteles* Foerster by Rao (1961) and work by Rao and Chalikwar (1970a, b) have been followed for the determination of the new taxa in the material collected in India, Maharashtra, Ahmednagar.

Types are deposited in the Entomological collection, Department of Zoology, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad.

***Apanteles ahmednagarensis*, sp. nov.**
(Figs. 1-3)

FEMALE: Length 2.3 mm (Fig. 1). Black. Trochanter, femur, tibia, tarsus, ovipositor reddish-brown; stigma, veins brownish-black; wings with fine black setae. Head (Fig. 2) 0.5 times as long as wide; vertex coarsely punctate, with pubescence; OOL as POL; frons moderately concave, shallowly

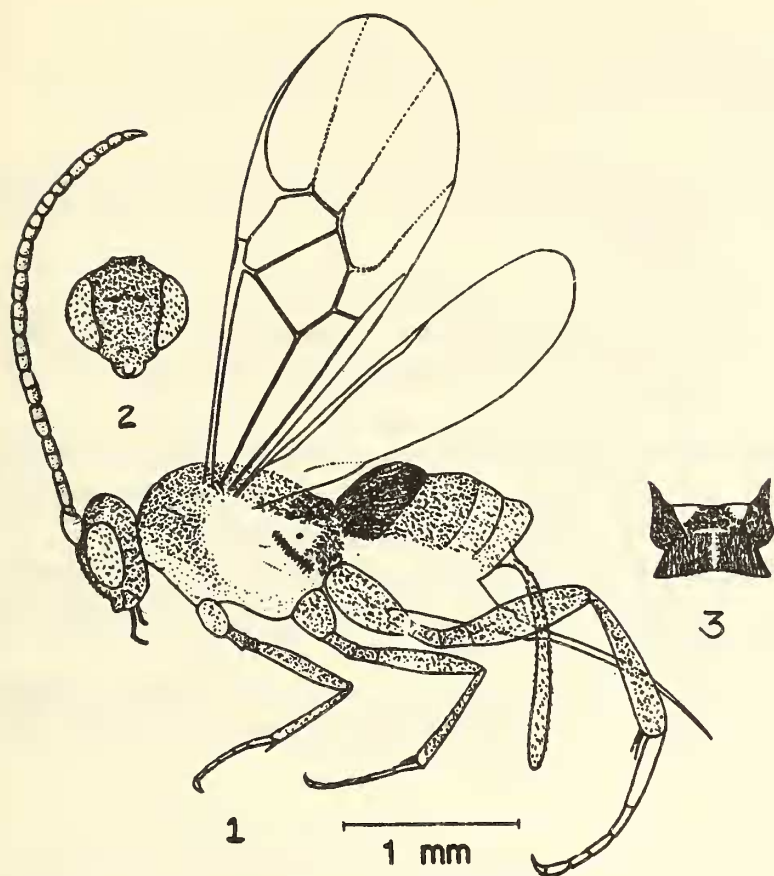
punctate, with fine pubescence; face finely, shallowly punctate, with pubescence; clypeus transverse, smooth, shiny; malar space equals 2 x basal width of mandible, weakly punctate; eye height 3.3 x width, pubescent; mandible bidentate; temple closely punctate, pubescent; occiput smooth, shiny; occipital carina absent; antenna 2 + 16 segmented, filiform; scape length 1.75 x width; pedicel as long as wide, longer than penultimate; penultimate segment as long as wide; first 11 flagellar segments with dark transverse band dividing the segments into two halves.

Thorax: Pronotum smooth, shiny, weakly punctate, finely pubescent; mesonotum shiny, weakly, shallowly punctate; mesoscutum closely punctate, pubescent; mesoscutellar depression transversely carinated; scutellum convex, shiny, smooth, very weakly punctate, pubescent; mesopleurum anterior corner moderately punctate, rest smooth, shiny; subpleural area closely punctate, pubescent; mesopleural suture distinct; prepectal carina absent; anterior 0.5 of metapleurum smooth, shiny and posterior 0.5 rugulose, moderately punctate, pubescent; propodeum (Fig. 3) rugose, without areola, closely punctate, without longitudinal carina, pubescent, spiracle small. Fore wing length 3 x width; stigma length 3.5 x width; metacarpus 1.2 x length of stigma; costa 2.4 x length of stigma; 1st abscissa of radius as long as width of stigma; basal 0.45 x length of medius; nervulus inclivous 0.6 times as long as width of submedius, length 1.2 times as long as medius; hind wing length 3.4 x breadth. Hind coxa length 1.7 x width, smooth, weakly punctate, with fine pubescence; trochanter length 3 x width, smooth, weakly punctate, pubescent; femur length 3.3 x maximum width, closely punctate, pubescent; tibia length 5.8 x width apically; tibial spur 0.4 times the length of basitarsus;

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Figs. 1-3. *Apanteles ahmednagarensis* sp. nov. (Female) 1. Adult lateral view; 2. Head, frontal view; 3. Propodeum with first abdominal tergite.

basitarsus length 0.2 times the width; claw simple, bifid.

Abdomen: 1.6 times as long as wide, spindle shaped; T 1 (Fig. 3) 0.7 times as long as wide apically, strigose mid-dorsally, with a shallow median suture, laterally subpolished, weakly punctate, pubescent; T 2 length 0.3 x width apically, smooth, subpolished, weakly, shallowly punctate, pubescent; T 3 length 0.3 x apical width, smooth, shiny, very weakly, shallowly punctate, pubescent; ovipositor pointed, as long as ovipositor sheath; ovipositor sheath with fine bristles throughout the length.

MALE: Unknown.

Holotype: FEMALE, INDIA: Maharashtra, Ahmednagar. 12. ix. 1989, on wing, Coll. S.M. Kurhade; Antenna, wings and legs mounted on slides and labelled as above.

Paratypes: 2 Females, data same as holotype except one female, 15. x. 1989, on wing.

DISCUSSION

The new species, *Apanteles ahmednagarensis* could not be placed near any species in the key to the Oriental species of *Apanteles* Foerster by Rao (1961) but it closely resembles *Apanteles mehdialii* Rao and Chalikwar (1970) in having the characters: (i) OOL as POL, (ii) face shallowly punctate, (iii) antenna 2 + 16 segmented, (iv) terminal flagellar segment longer than penultimate and (v) mesonotum shiny, shallowly punctate. However, the new taxon differs from *mehdialii* in the characters: (i) vertex coarsely punctate, with pubescence, (ii) frons moderately concave, shallowly punctate, with fine pubescence, (iii) first 11 flagellar segments with dark transverse band, (iv) scape length 1.75 x width, (v) penultimate segment as long as wide, (vi) disc of scutellum shiny, smooth, very weakly punctate and (vii) propodeum rugose, without median longitudinal carina.

The new taxon also resembles *Apanteles aurangabadensis* Rao and Chalikwar (1970) but it differs in having (i) vertex coarsely punctate, (ii) mesonotum shiny, weakly, shallowly punctate, (iii) scutellum shiny, smooth, very weakly punctate, (iv) propodeum rugose, without areola and (v) mesopleurum shiny, smooth.

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